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**DROYLSDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual Report

**OF THE
Medical Officer of Health.**

1944.

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OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1944.

URBAN DISTRICT OF DROYLSDEN.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

A. W. LAING, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Dp.Bact.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector:

JOHN E. HART, C.R.S.I., M.I.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,010 acres
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Population—

At Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	13,270
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At June, 1944	...	...	...	...	...	24,070
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Number of Houses—

At Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	3,280
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At end of 1944	...	...	...	...	...	8,170
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General Rate for 1944	...	...	...	14s. 8d. in the £
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Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£109,985
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Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£440
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Birth Rate for 1944	...	...	...	...	...	23.78
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Death Rate for 1944	...	...	...	...	...	13.03
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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DROYLSDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report relating to the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the Urban District of Droylsden for the year 1944.

Social Conditions.

The population is almost entirely of an industrial character, being engaged mainly in cotton spinning and weaving, cloth finishing and dyeing, confectionery and manufactory of upholstery, but a large number of residents follow occupations in Manchester and the adjoining districts.

Droylsden is becoming more and more a dormitory of Manchester.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births—					
Legitimate	557	290	267		
Illegitimate	16	6	10		
	573	296	277	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	23.78
Still Births	19	9	10	Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still births)	33.1
Deaths	248	124	124	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.03
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth			—	From premature birth	5
				From other causes	7
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—					
All Infants per 1,000 live births					31.41
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)					2

Birth Rate.

During the year the births of 573 infants (296 males and 277 females) were registered. Of these births 6 males and 10 females were illegitimate.

Taking the population at 24,070, for the birth-rate for the year is 23.78 per 1,000, as compared with 21.52 per 1,000 last year, or an increased birth-rate of 2.26 per 1,000.

The birth-rate for England and Wales is 17.6.

Death Rate.

During the year the deaths of 248 persons (124 males and 124 females) were registered.

This gives a death-rate of 13.03 per 1,000 as against 11.05 last year, or an increased death-rate of 1.98 per 1,000.

The death-rate for England and Wales is 11.6.

The above deaths include those of 18 children under one year of age (10 males and 8 females). This gives an infant mortality rate of 31.41 per 1,000.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales is 46.

The death-rate from cancer is 1.53.

Diseases of the respiratory organs, such as bronchitis and pneumonia, caused 26 deaths, or 10.48 per cent. of the total deaths.

All tubercular diseases caused 16 deaths or 6.45 per cent. of the total deaths.

Thirteen of these deaths were caused by phthisis, which gives a phthisis death-rate of 0.54.

Diseases of the zymotic or infectious class caused two deaths.

The epidemic death-rate for the year is 0.08.

The following table shows the number of deaths from the chief zymotic diseases during the last five years:—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	2	2	—	1
Diphtheria	—	2	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	2	4	3	3	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	1	1	—
Totals	3	9	7	4	2

**Vital Statistics of Whole District During 1944 and
10 Previous Years.**

Year	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year	Births		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Num- ber	Rate	Under 1 year of age		At all ages.	
				Num- ber	Rate per 1000 nett Births	Num- ber	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1934	16,170	202	12.4	7	34	178	12.4
1935	17,100	244	14.2	17	69	186	12.2
1936	19,250	357	18.5	19	53	232	13.5
1937	21,490	414	19.2	27	65	248	12.9
1938	23,710	466	19.6	32	68	286	13.5
1939	24,940	512	20.5	42	48	272	10.8
1940	25,160	510	20.2	21	41	296	11.7
1941	24,970	501	20.06	25	49	283	11.30
1942	24,460	513	20.97	40	77	264	10.79
1943	24,160	520	21.52	31	57	267	11.05
1944	24,070	573	23.78	18	31	248	13.03

Causes of Death.						Males Females	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Syphilitis diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer of buc: cav: and oesoph (M)	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	16	5
Intracranial vascular lessions	...	...	...	...	...	7	17
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	29	40
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	14	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Con: mal: birth inj.: infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Road Traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	10	12
						124	124
Total						248	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

There are no Fever or Smallpox Hospitals in the District of the Council.

(1) **Tuberculosis.**—Sanatorium treatment of tuberculosis patients is arranged for and provided by the Tuberculosis Department of the Lancashire County Council, whose Dispensary for this District is situated at Ashton-under-Lyne.

(2) **Maternity.**—Complicated maternity cases are sent to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester; the District Infirmary and the Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Residents of Droylsden are now able to make use of the St. Mary's Hospital Maternity Unit. The Maternity Unit consists of a member of the visiting Obstetric Staff, together with a Nurse and the necessary equipment for dealing with emergencies. The services of the Unit are available when summoned by the doctor in charge of the case. The unit was called out once during the year.

(3) **Children.**—A considerable number of children are treated each year at the voluntary Children's Hospitals in Manchester and the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne.

(4) **Infectious Diseases.**—Under the terms of an agreement with the Manchester Corporation, cases which cannot be isolated satisfactorily at home, with the exception of smallpox, are sent for isolation and treatment at the Monsall Hospital, Manchester. Payment is made by the Council at the rate of actual cost. There is no limit to the number of beds which may be occupied.

- (5) **Smallpox.**—Arrangements have been made whereby cases of smallpox are treated at the Ashton-under-Lyne and District Joint Smallpox Hospital at Hartshead.
- (6) **Puerperal Pyrexia.**—Cases requiring hospital treatment are received at the Manchester Corporation's Hospital at Monsall.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

Voluntary Hospitals.

Seventy pounds, eighteen shillings was contributed by the Droylsden Urban District Council to various hospitals and Medical Charities around the district, during 1944.

There are no Public or Voluntary Hospitals in the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

In the past cases to be removed to Manchester Institutions were conveyed by Manchester ambulances, and those cases requiring treatment in Ashton Institutions were removed by the Ashton ambulances. This proved to be an excellent service. All cases irrespective of destination are now removed by the Ashton ambulance.

Infectious Cases.

In cases of Infectious Diseases, other than smallpox, the motor ambulances of the Manchester Corporation are requisitioned for the conveyance of patients to Monsall Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Nursing in the Home.

The Droylsden Sick Nursing Association employs two whole-time Nurses for the visitation of the sick, but there are no arrangements for the nursing of infectious diseases, e.g., measles, in the home.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Child Welfare Centre is the only clinic in the area and is under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

Mortuary.

Arrangements have been made with the Public Assistance Committee to make use of the new and up-to-date Mortuary at the Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Midwives.

There are three registered midwives residing and practising in the district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT.

Water.

The water supply is derived from the service mains of the Manchester Corporation, and there is a constant supply of water of excellent quality.

Sewerage.

Manchester Corporation took over Droylsden's sewerage in June, 1939. With the exception of 20 new houses which were built below the existing sewer level and necessitated the provision of a cesspool, sewage is treated by the Manchester Corporation at Davyhulme.

Closet Accommodation.

Droylsden is, with the exception of 6 Pail Closets, a 100 per cent. water-closet town. Further, the old obsolete type of fixed midden and ashpit for refuse at the rear of houses has been totally superseded by the provision of receptacles of the portable type, and now, the whole of the bins in the district consist of metal ashtins.

The District Council supply new galvanised metal ashbins and covers on request to owners of property at a small margin over the cost price, and this service is very greatly appreciated. During the past year new ashtins have been supplied to 381 houses.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

2,879 loads of dry refuse weighing 4,842 tons were collected.

4,700 tons were tipped on the Council's Tip and 142 tons burned in the Refuse Destructor.

Scavenging of Roads and Streets.

The scavenging of roads and streets in the District is carried out by the Surveyor and is not under the control of the Sanitary Department.

Notices Served.

Legal Notices Issued	26
Letters or Informal Notices Issued	62
Notices sent to Schools re Infectious Diseases	18

Smoke Abatement.

Twelve observations have been taken during the year and Stokers have been interviewed and advice given on the best methods of avoiding excessive smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned baths in the area.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the day schools is generally good. It has not been found necessary during the year to close any school for the purpose of checking the spread of infectious disease.

Eradiction of Bed Bugs.

Six houses have been fumigated with Hydro-Cyanic Acid Gas by a firm in Manchester.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1944.

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	376
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	384

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	186
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	194
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	48
2.—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:—	
Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	38
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which	
Notices were served requiring repairs	28
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:	
(a) By owners	24
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners	4
B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	96

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:—

(a) By owners		92
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		4

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 20 registered retail purveyors of milk, other than cowkeepers and 4 dairies.

There is one firm licensed to produce Pasteurised milk.

Milk Supplied to Schools.

Eight specimens of milk were taken for the County Council. All proved negative for tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis in Milk.

During the year 9 samples of raw milk and 4 samples of Pasteurised milk were submitted by the Droylsden Urban District Council for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. All proved negative.

In addition 35 samples were taken for cleanliness tests, 19 of these were unsatisfactory.

Milk for Bacterial Count, B. Coli and Meth. Blue.

Sample No.	Cultivation of Bacteria at 37° in 48 hours per 1.0 c.c.	Bacillus Coli present in			Mythelene Blue.	Desig. of Milk.
		1.0 c.c.	0.1 c.c. of 3 Tubes.	0.01 c.c. of 3 Tubes.		
1	—	—	—	—	Satisfactory	Past.
2	—	—	—	—	Unsatisf'ry	Raw
3	20,000	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
4	63,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Past.
5	10,000	—	—	—	—	Past.
6	29,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Past.
7	408,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Past.
8	600,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Past.
9	30,000	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
10	80,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Raw
11	40,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Past.
12	24,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Raw
13	8,000	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
14	7,000	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
15	5,000	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
16	5,000	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
17	480,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Raw
18	10,200	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Past.
19	4,000	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
20	4,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Raw
21	—	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	Unsatisf'ry	Raw
22	11,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Past.
23	—	—	Present in 2 tubes	—	Satisfactory	Raw
24	2,100	—	Present in one tube	—	—	Past.
25	6,400	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
26	88,000	—	Present in 3 tubes	Present in one tube	—	Past.
27	52,000	Not present	—	—	—	Raw
28	174,000	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	—	Past.
29	800	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
30	5,800	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
31	600	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
32	68,000	Not present	—	—	—	Past.
33	—	—	—	Present in 3 tubes	Unsatisf'ry	Raw
34	—	Not present	—	—	Satisfactory	Raw
35	—	—	Present in 2 tubes	—	Satisfactory	Raw

Meat Shops and Slaughterhouses.

There are 23 retail meat shops and two slaughterhouses in Droylsden, but there is no slaughtering taking place in the district at the present time.

During the year 270lbs. of beef, 12lbs. of beef trimmings, 4lbs. of sausage, one beast's head, and 4lbs. pressed pork were destroyed as unwholesome and unfit for food.

Bakehouses.

At the end of 1944 there were 38 bakehouses on the register, and these have been found to be well kept, cleanly and in good structural condition.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet fever showed a decrease, the number of cases notified was 34 as against 180 in 1943.

Nine cases of diphtheria were notified, compared with 16 cases in 1943. All nine cases were removed to Isolation Hospital; one proved to be a case of 'simple tonsillitis, another a case of post Tonsillectomy Sloughs, and a third that of scarlet fever. There were no deaths.

Sixty-nine cases of whooping cough were notified, compared with 40 cases in 1943, and 399 cases of measles, as against 118 in 1943. There was one death from whooping cough and one from measles.

80,000 units of diphtheria antitoxin were supplied to doctors for administration to patients residing in the district.

Scabies.

There has been a great decline in the prevalence of Scabies.

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

A scheme for active immunisation of children against diphtheria started on the 13th October, 1939. The County

Council provide the Nurses and the use of the Clinic and contribute 50 per cent. of the cost.

The immunisation is carried out by two of the Medical Practitioners residing in the area. Children from nine months to 15 years are immunised free of cost. The average attendance at each session was 62.

Three immunising doses each of 0.5c.c. A.P.T. are given to each child at intervals of four weeks.

During the year 229 pre-school children and 101 school children completed the course of immunisation.

Disinfection.

During the year 67 premises were disinfected by the Council as follows:—

Infectious Diseases, 61; Tuberculosis deaths, 6.

A Steam Disinfector (Alliott's patent) is installed at the destructor works.

Owing to insufficient means of isolation at home, 6 cases of scarlet fever, 9 notified cases of diphtheria, 2 cases of whooping cough, one case of measles, and one of dysentery were removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

The following Pathological Specimens were submitted to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory for examination:—

Sputum, 3; Throat and nose swabs for diphtheria, 31; Virulence test for diphtheria, 1.

In addition 20 throat and nose swabs for diphtheria, and 10 sputum were examined at the Pathological Laboratory of the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1944:—

Age Periods Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	4	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
20—	1	4	1	—	—	2	—	—
25—	2	5	—	3	—	5	—	—
35—	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
55—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	16	12	5	4	6	7	2	—
	28		9		13		2	

Notification of Tuberculosis by medical practitioners is carried out with promptness.

On receipt of notification of cases of Tuberculosis particulars are transmitted through the County Medical Officer of Health to the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer, at Ashton-under-Lyne, who arranges for the domiciliary, dispensary, sanatorium or pulmonary hospital treatment of the patients.

During the year environmental reports were received relating to 35 houses.

Importance is attached to the disinfection of the homes of tuberculosis subjects, and this is performed at every available opportunity.

Arrangements are also in force whereby notification is received from the County Council of the proposed admissions of a patient into Sanatorium or Pulmonary Hospital, and from the Registrar of Deaths on the registration of a death from tuberculosis, and in each of these cases thorough disinfection of the premises is carried out.

During the year 23 houses were disinfected after tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade and no compensation has been paid.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the last 10 years:—

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Diphtheria	7	46	66	46	70	21	36	10	18	9
Erysipelas	10	3	5	11	3	4	2	1	2	3
Scarlet Fever	65	72	60	78	34	42	48	108	180	34
Enteric Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	2	1	0
Puerperal Fever ...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .	3	1	5	7	5	3	3	2	3	1
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Encephalitis										
Lethargica	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulmonary										
Tuberculosis	15	27	24	36	15	25	36	29	28	28
Other Forms of										
Tuberculosis	17	16	13	10	11	9	9	15	5	9
Pneumonia	33	34	19	19	11	11	19	8	9	9
Opthalmia										
Neonatorum	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Measles					5	362	42	261	118	339
Whooping Cough .					3	59	116	38	40	69
Totals	153	203	194	210	158	539	316	474	405	501

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient servant,

A. W. LAING,

Medical Officer of Health.

